

(3) There should be a *uniform curriculum*.

(4) There should be a *final examination* or test for registration, the same for all.

These were practically the four main points for which those interested in the scheme stood.

His reason for preferring the term State Recognition was that Registration meant only one thing. State Recognition meant something larger than the mere keeping of a Register, and practically included State Registration. There were many ways of obtaining State Recognition. Sir Charles Russell, whom he had consulted, pointed out how almost exactly analogous the position of the Nursing Profession would be under the College Scheme to that of the Incorporated Law Society. This was a voluntary society, but it had obtained State Recognition, and had received powers far beyond the narrower sense of the word. An influential Committee had proceeded at once with the formation of a Register, and the State had given the Society increasing powers—penal powers, in fact—and had entrusted to it the custody of the Roll of Solicitors and authority to strike off the Roll any Solicitor found guilty of malpractice.

If the aim was State Recognition and it was endeavoured to found a Nursing College, the first step to be proceeded with would be the formation of a Register. It was absolutely necessary for its work that the Register should be proceeded with as quickly as possible.

One word about the Nurses' Registration Bill. There was not much chance of a private member's Bill getting through the House at the present time, and the Government were not very likely to take it up. He thought it would be wise, therefore, to begin with the formation of a Register. That was the only point on which he differed with the Registrationists. He thought they were putting the cart before the horse. The better way was to form the Register, and then go to Parliament to sanction that Register.

Parliament would not entrust them with the supervision of a Register not in existence. Let them set their own house in order first, and then go to Parliament. He felt absolutely certain that they would get what they wanted eventually.

*Self-Government.*—He thought the Scheme went further than any other in this direction. Indeed, since the first discussions took place, there had been considerable modifications in that respect. There had been considerable reluctance to adopt a nominated Council, but it was necessary that it should be nominated in the first instance, because there was no constituency to elect it. Only the first Council was to be nominated, and, as at present proposed, two-thirds would be composed of Matrons or Nurses in the active practice of their profession; one-third of the Council would retire annually, and those who replaced them would be elected by the members of the College. There was no provision for any body of doctors—the whole election would be in the hands of the College, and in three years the Council would be a purely elected body.

*Uniform Curriculum.*—On the subject of a uniform curriculum, Mr. Stanley said he was unable to speak fully, as he was only a layman, but he thought there was a general wish that there should be a uniform curriculum for the training schools throughout the Kingdom. A Committee should be appointed to deal with the question at once. He believed the curriculum was now very high in the majority of schools, and nothing would be done of any kind to lower it. The imposition of an examination test was the answer to that. He believed, if the College were formed, the curriculum of training would be higher than any required by the State.

*A Final Examination or Test for All.*—In regard to the examination, he thought it would be necessary for a certain term of years to have a close time, and for the Council to decide who should be put on the Register without examination. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's Committee—(Mrs. Fenwick here rose to take exception to the use of that term. She said there was no Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's Committee; the Chairman, no doubt, referred to the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, of which she was President).

Mr. Stanley then read from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING an extract from the speech of Miss Heather-Bigg, President of the Matrons' Council, at the Meeting convened by the National Council of Trained Nurses, and held in London on February 12th, in which she claimed that the nursing profession was now of full age, and like all adults had the right to demand self-government; that the nurse training schools should have a uniform curriculum of training; and that, by passing an independent examination, nurses should "furnish conclusive proof to the public that they possessed the necessary knowledge to merit a diploma of efficiency and to be registered as a 'Trained Nurse.'" Those were the principal objects of the College.

It now only remained for him to thank those present for their attendance. He believed if his scheme were carried through they would get whatever they wanted. Neither he nor those with whom he worked wished for any credit. He was only too anxious that those who had fought this battle for twenty-five years should have full credit for anything they had done. Nor must they forget those dependent on them for bread, and positions would be found for them.

If he could do anything to help forward State Recognition and Registration he would be well content.

Mr. Stanley then called on Miss Haughton to read her paper on the College of Nursing:—

#### COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Many of us who are content to work for the establishment of a College of Nursing upon a voluntary basis hope and believe that ultimately the Nursing Profession will be regulated by Act of Parliament, and we anticipate that the experi-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)